

**From:** [taffy@gamefarmhay.com](mailto:taffy@gamefarmhay.com) [<mailto:taffy@gamefarmhay.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 8:50 PM

**To:** FS-objections-chief <[objections-chief@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-chief@fs.fed.us)>

**Subject:** Objections - Shoshone National Forest Documents

February 12, 2018

To: USDA Forest Service  
Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer  
Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief  
Use of Domestic Sheep, Goats and Pack  
Goats Shoshone National Forest  
EMC, Mailstop 1104  
100 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Electronic submittal: [objections\\_chief@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections_chief@fs.fed.us)

RE: Objections to the Shoshone National Forest Draft Record of Decision and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Use of Domestic Sheep, Goats and Pack Goats

Dear Sir,

I object to the Shoshone National Forest Draft Record of Decision and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Use of Domestic Sheep, Goats and Pack Goats.

The RADT still uses the debunked Dr. Besser study to implicate packgoats in Bighorn die-offs.

*I would like the Dr. Besser study stricken from the RADT altogether. There are also references in the RADT to opinions held by bighorn sheep specialists, but the RADT needs to contain scientific fact, not opinion. Dr. Besser's research article is filled with inaccuracies and exaggerations and lacks objectivity. The Shoshone NF Must Not Rely on Besser et al. (2017) in the FSEIS and/or Final RADT Report as the findings and conclusions from that research article are unsupported by data and have been subject to later corrections.*

There is no basis for the Shoshone NF's findings and conclusions concerning attraction and increased probability of contact between pack goats and bighorn sheep. The Shoshone NF must remove all statements from the Final RADT Report alleging "attraction" between pack goats and bighorn sheep, as well as any and all conclusions indicating that there is an increased probability of contact between pack goats and bighorn sheep on the Shoshone NF.

The Shoshone NF relies on an opinion paper by Coggins et al. (2002) that provides absolutely no evidence of contact or subsequent disease transmission between domestic goats and bighorn sheep. The Shoshone NF's reference to Coggins et al. (2002) in the Final RADT Report must be removed, as well as any and all conclusions drawn from inclusion of the reference. There is no scientific basis for concluding or suggesting that pack goats have contacted bighorn sheep in the wild, leading to disease transmission.

Decisions MUST be made on best available current science – not on debunked studies or opinions.

Sincerely,

Theresa Mercer

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